(6) Lowering of land ceiling limits to get more land for distribution and bringing land under religious and charitable institutions within the purview of normal ceiling limits may also be considered by States.

(*D*) *Land Records*

(1) Land records should be brought up to date by taking up a campaign observing 1985-86 as land record year.

(2) A system should be evolved for updating land records regularly.

(3) Non-land records States should introduce land and crop records expeditiously.

(4) Survey and settlement operation wherever pending should be expedited.

(5) Patta pass books with legal status should be issued to land Owners as well as tenants.

(*E*) *Consolidation of Holdings*

Consolidation of holding, to cover 25% of consolidable areas, be attempted during Seventh Plan giving priority to irrigated areas and on a selective basis to areas where holding of small and marginal farmers and ceiling surplus lands assignee are large in number of more efficient delivery of services.

(*F*) *Assignees of ceiling Surplus Land*

Linkage of the scheme of financial assistance to assignees of ceiling surplus land be forged with IRDP and other rural development programme.

Subscription to Language News Agencies

*11. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :

SMT. MAIMOONA SULTAN :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to State :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to withdraw subscription payments to language news agencies viz. Hindustan Samachar and Samachar Bharati;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps, if any, are contemplated or are being taken by Government to set up autonomous language agencies on the lines of English news agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House (*See* below).

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Statement

The Government had convened a meeting of leading editors and proprietors of language newspapers in the country to consider the provision of satisfactory service to language newspapers in the context of the condition of the existing Hindi news agencies, namely Hindustan Samachar and Samachar Bharati.

The general consensus at the meeting was that it was not possible to revive the existing Hindi News Agencies and that it was for the proprietors and editors of newspapers themselves to establish and operate such a news agency service. A committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri R.N. Goenka to make an in-depth examination of various alternatives.

The Committee came to the conclusion that the creation of a full-fledged news agency with adequate technological back-up will require massive capital investment and running expenses which are beyond the reach of the language newspapers.

As an alternative, the Committee felt that if Indian language news service is added to the infrastructure of existing English news agencies, the additional cost will be quite low and these news agencies should be able to provide the requisite service to the language newspapers. The Government has accepted the recommendations of the Committee and has accordingly decided to discontinue the payment of subscription by AIR, Doordarshan or any other subsidy to Hindustan Samachar and Samachar Bharati.

Levy on Fish Caught by Fishing Trawlers

*12. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the catch of prawn by fishing trawlers in the coastal areas, and

(b) whether Government propose to fix a levy on the fish caught with a view to supplying to Indian markets where the price of fish is soaring high?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

*13 [*Transferred to the 25th February*, 1986.]

Provision of Sanitary Latrines under RLEGP and NREP

*14. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to provide sanitary latrines in rural areas in the Seventh Five Year Plan period under the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme and the National Rural Employment Programme ; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) Government proposed to take up a programme for construction of sanitary latrines in rural areas under National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) during the Seventh Five Year Plan. Details of this programme are as follows:

(1) One million sanitary latrines would be provided in the houses being constructed under the group housing and microhabitat scheme for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and freed bonded labourers under the RLEGP.

(2) 2.5 lakhs additional sanitary latrines would be constructed for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/ freed bonded labourers under RLEGP for which Rs. 6 crores would be earmarked each year of the Seventh Plan.

(3) 2.5 lakhs sanitary latrines would be constructed for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes under NREP by utilising Rs. 6 crores each year out of the funds earmarked for works exclusively benefitting Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

(4) For all houses that are being constructed for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes with NREP assistance, provision would be made to the extent possible for sanitary latrines in each house.

(5) Attempt would be made to provide sanitary latrines in all village-level institutions like health sub-centres, schools, panchayat ghars, Anganwadis, etc. by utilising funds under NREP and RLEGP.